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Chair

Frances T. Henry
Vice Chair

Pat A. Strong
Secretary

E. Joseph Savoie
*Commissioner of
Higher Education*



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Regents Install 2004 Officers, Acknowledge National Recognition of Reform Successes

The Board of Regents today installed officers and ratified committee appointments for 2004. The Board took advantage of the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to improving education at all levels in Louisiana.

"We look forward to the opportunities of the new year and to working with Governor Blanco in her effort to build a brighter future for all Louisiana citizens through educational excellence," said Regent Roland Toups, who was installed today as 2004 Board of Regents Chairman.

Also installed as officers at today's meeting were Frances Henry, Vice-Chair, and Pat Strong, Secretary.

"There are many challenges ahead for this board in 2004, but I'm confident that with this first-rate leadership team in place, Louisiana's postsecondary education system will see continued success. Education at all levels in this state will benefit from their efforts," said Commissioner of Higher Education E. Joseph Savoie.

Commissioner Savoie also cited a report released this week by *Education Week* magazine that listed Louisiana as the nation's number one state in educational accountability, and number five in efforts to improve teacher quality. Savoie congratulated the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for earning the number-one distinction in accountability. Regarding the number five ranking in teacher quality efforts, Savoie commended the efforts of Louisiana's colleges of education and the state's university presidents and chancellors for their work in redesigning teacher training programs statewide. He also acknowledged the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Teacher Quality for its role in Louisiana's successful education reform efforts.

"This recognition is one more validation that our efforts statewide have been and continue to be successful. I offer my congratulations and thanks to everyone involved in this noteworthy achievement," Savoie said.

The Board of Regents will hold its regular monthly meeting on January 21-22.

